

Church of God Evangel

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
St. JOHN

CHAPTER 1.

In the beginning, and of the testimony of John, the testimony of Peter, etc.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

And the same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by him, and without him was not any thing made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came for a witness, to give testimony of the Light, that all might believe through him.

He was not that Light, but he came to witness of the Light, that all might believe through him.

"For which cause we faint not, but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day," 2 Corinthians 4:16.

AS I SEE MANY OF our elderly saints nearing the end of their pilgrimage, I am reminded of what Job said, "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season." What a great inspiration they are. Though many are frail; many are bent with age; yet they have retained that spiritual vigor that keeps them ever young, full of faith and wisdom, ever reaching out for more of God. With Paul they are saying, "I count not myself to have apprehended." The goal is not yet, but with unfaltering trust they are still striving forward.

Dr. D. A. Laird, a well-known writer of psychology, says, "The age of the head has nothing to do with learning. It is the kind of head, its thinking habits, that determines one's capacity to absorb and assimilate knowledge. Old age does not arrive until the desire to learn goes."

In my early Christian experience, I had the privilege of teaching a class of about fifty elderly mothers. What a great blessing they were to me, as we studied God's Word together! What an encouragement it was to see saints whose heads were blossoming for the grave still eager to learn. I was their teacher in name, but in reality I was the pupil. God has told us in His Word that the aged women show themselves a pattern of good works, that they teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be keepers at home. Our aged women have taught, and are teaching, their lesson well. Under their guiding influence many young women have taken their rightful places.

From my youth I have loved the aged. May God's choicest blessings rest upon them as they near the end of their pilgrimage.

Beautiful young people are accidents of Nature. But beautiful old people are works of art.—Marjorie B. Greebie.



A GOOD REPLY

A skeptic in London recently said, in speaking of the Bible, it was quite impossible in these days to believe in any book whose authority was unknown. A Christian asked him if the compiler of the multiplication table was known. "No," he answered. "Then, of course, you do not believe in it?" "Oh, yes, I believe in it because it works well." "So does the Bible," was the rejoinder, and the skeptic had no answer to make.—From Christian Digest



NOTICES

WANTED: Man and wife to work in the Church of God Home for Children; also, nurse and piano teacher. If interested, write Rev. R. R. Walker, Box 31, Sevierville, Tennessee.

We have started a new work in The Dalles, Oregon. Anyone having friends or relatives in or near this area, please contact the Reverend James Layne, Box 779, The Dalles, Oregon. The church is located on the corner of Washington and Court Streets.

J. H. McCain, of Bogalusa, Louisiana, is open for revivals. He has a record player and P.A. system for help in advertising the revival. Contact him at 1335 Front Street, Bogalusa, Louisiana. Phone RE-24314.

IN THIS ISSUE

Birds of a Feather	
God Provides When We Decide	Floyd Timmerman
Man and Missions	5
Knowing Ourselves, Our Church, and	
Our Task	E. A. Ballenger 6
Knowing Christ	Robert F. Johnson 7
The Virgin Birth of Jesus	Clyde C. Cox 8
In Memoriam	11
Reports	12
Religious News	15

Church of God Evangel

Official organ of the Church of God
Charles W. Conn, Editor-in-Chief

Published Weekly by
The Church of God Publishing House
Cleveland, Tennessee—Phone 3600
CECIL BRIDGES, Business Manager

GENERAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ZENO C. THARP, General Overseer.
HOUSTON R. MOREHEAD, Assistant General Overseer.
JAMES A. CROSS, Assistant General Overseer.
H. D. WILLIAMS, Secretary-Treasurer.
CHARLES W. CONN, Editor-in-Chief.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH DEPARTMENT

RAY H. HUGHES, National Sunday School and Youth Director.
FOREIGN MISSIONS DEPARTMENT
PAUL H. WALKER, Executive Missions Secretary.

EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATIONS BOARD

J. Frank Spivey, Chairman; W. J. Brown, E. O. Byington,
Marshall Roberson, E. L. Simmons, W. Paul Stallings,
H. T. Statum.

DECLARATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saint's feet.
13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single Subscription, per year	\$1.50
Single Copy . . . . .	.05

Entered as second-class matter under act of March 3, 1879, at Cleveland, Tennessee. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, act of October 3, 1917. Authorized August 23, 1918.



editorial



Birds of a Feather

THE OLD ADAGE "Birds of a feather flock together" was taught to our grandparents by their grandparents. It is so old and most of us heard it so early that as we grow older it loses its meaning. Nevertheless, it is as true today as when first some genius mind gave it expression. In Amos 3:3 we find a provocative question which infers that the Bible writers believed the adage to be true—"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" It is a rare thing to see people who are completely different remain congenial in their association one with the other. There must be some basis of comradeship; there must be similarities; there must be concord of ideals or ambitions; there must be an uncommon degree of mutuality. The axiom refers to the fact that a bluebird will usually be seen with other bluebirds, a blackbird with other blackbirds, a duck with other ducks, a crow with other crows, and a buzzard with other buzzards. While the adage mentions birds, it refers to the habits of people.

Just as the contents and quality of a man's mind are revealed by the books he reads, so are his character and personality revealed by the company he keeps. It is inevitable that he will be classed as one with his fellows. It is known that people generally seek comfort from their friends. Continuous association with those unlike themselves is an uncomfortable experience. It is only natural to forsake the companionship of those whose ideals are different from yours, whose ambitions are much higher or lower than yours, whose personal habits greatly contrast your own, or whose personal life makes you feel different or unique. The person who is sloven and dirty will usually feel ill at ease around those who keep themselves spick-and-span. So will the prim person be reluctant to associate with one who is slouchy and offensive. They just do not make a good pair; therefore, their walk together will be short indeed. Persons who gossip usually associate with other persons who gossip, for with them they feel free and comfortable, being able to hear much and tell much. In fact, it usually takes a gossip to hear gossip, for if it is not reciprocal and mutual, the one person who does all the talking will soon get the idea that the second person's silence is disapproval of his gossip or that he is being cheated by always telling the latest scandals without hearing new ones to keep his supply fresh and abundant. Those who gossip and those who are discreet soon come to the end of the way, for the Bible says, "A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards," Proverbs 29:11.

The critical person can have very little comradeship

with the sympathetic person. It is quite disconcerting for one to speak critically of some person and then his companion speak favorably of him; therefore, it usually turns out that either the critic becomes sympathetic or the sympathetic person becomes critical—or they soon cease their companionship to seek new companions more like themselves. A silly person will feel ill at ease with a serious-minded person, while the sober person will feel ridiculous with the one who is silly. They will not flock together for long, but will find companions with whom they have greater affinity.

The lewd and vulgar person will feel rebuked in the presence of a person with pure thoughts and words, while the pure person will feel filthy in the presence of the coarse one; soon the vulgar one will seek vulgar companions, and the pure one will seek the refreshment of pure companions. A scholar can never find true contentment with the ignorant and indifferent man. Even though there may be some other base that does give them real companionship, the ignorant man will soon begin to increase his knowledge and culture or the scholar will find himself in a state of mental decadence.

IT IS NOT likely that a spiritual person and a worldly-minded person will become bosom friends. It is almost impossible, for one of two things must soon happen: the spiritual person will find himself becoming lax and indifferent, or the worldly person will find himself striving to achieve the same spiritual life of his friend. Two cannot walk together without agreement. One will either change to conform with the other, or they will soon part company and go their separate ways.

On and on, examples can be cited to prove that the maxim is true: birds of a feather do flock together. They must, for it is only by doing so that they can be comfortable and happy. Your companions usually reveal you. This being true, you should exercise extreme caution in the selection of your friends and fellows. Bad friends are a greater reflection on you than bad relatives, for God has given you your relatives but leaves you to choose your friends. You must not feel bad when you are classified with those with whom you constantly associate. People know that you will find no pleasure in associating with those who are so different to you that you are conspicuous for your virtue or your lack of it. If you flock with a particular group or pal with a particular person, you may be sure that in the eyes of others you are essentially alike.

You must accept the fact that those who know you will think that you, too, are flippant and chaffy if your constant association is with a silly group or person; likewise, they will know that you have high and lofty ideals and aspirations if you are the associate of those who

(Continued on page 10)



God Provides ... When We Decide

By FLOYD TIMMERMAN

Pastor, North Cleveland, Tennessee

As with the patriarch Abraham, our decision to live for God will bring into our lives His greatest blessings.

Text: Genesis 22:8, "And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together."

THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD are those who are so consecrated to God that they are willing to go anywhere and do anything that God would ask them to do without questioning God and trying to offer excuses. It is wonderful to have faith enough to trust God and know that He will take care of you. If you have obligated yourself to God, then God is obligated to you. He has never asked anyone to do anything but what He has supplied his needs and has taken care of him. To make success in life, you must have confidence in yourself that you can do what God has asked of you.

When God asked Abraham to take Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice, Abraham did not try to make an excuse; he decided that God knew best and he would trust him. Abraham knew also that God would keep His promise even if He had to perform a miracle to do it. As he and Isaac reached the place to start up the mountain, it seems that I can hear Abraham tell the men to stay there while he and the lad go up to worship and then return to them. He did not say that just he would return, but he included the boy, also. As Abraham and Isaac started up the mountain, Isaac turned to his father and said, "Father, you have the fire, the wood, and the knife, but where is the offering?" Abraham did not hesitate nor was he undecided in the least about what to do. He said, "Son, God will provide." After the altar was erected, Abraham took Isaac and placed him on it and took the knife in his hand to slay his son. God had not forgotten about him, for His eyes were upon him. God always keeps His eyes upon those who trust in Him, and He will come in due time to help them. The angel of the Lord spoke to Abraham and said, "Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me." When Abraham lifted up his eyes, he saw caught in the thicket a ram that God had placed there for him as an offering. Too many times when God tells us to do something and to make a sacrifice, we fail to comply to His command. In so doing, we automatically cut off the bountiful supply of God's blessings to us. It was when Abraham fully decided that God provided.

DANIEL WAS A GREAT MAN, but we would never have known of his greatness had it not been for his powerful decisions for God. When they told him that he must eat the king's meat and drink his wine, he did not beat around the bush or stumble about to find words proper and fitting to tell them. He simply stated, "I am determined and have decided not to partake of those things." It is too bad that we do not have more people who, brave and unembarrassed, will stand up for their honest convictions. It is when this exists that the minority can rule the majority. The Church of God is the best organization in the world. I love its government and its teachings. It is the government and teachings that make us what we are. Whether I am in Tennessee, North Carolina, Illinois, or anywhere in the world, I am not ashamed of what I believe. We need to be the same everywhere we go. A minister who does not teach and uphold the teachings of the Church should turn his license in or make a definite decision to stand by the Church that has made him what he is. The smallest person in the world in the sight of God and man is the person who betrays his brother and the principles for which he is supposed to uphold. Just because the furnace was heated seven times hotter than usual did not make Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego tremble at the command of the king. The king told them they must bow down to his god, but they were not careful to give him an answer. They had already decided what to do and they trusted God to provide a way for them. They told the king that he could play his music and let every instrument sound out as loudly as they would but they would not bow down to his god, because the God whom they served was able to deliver them out of his hands. When cast into the furnace of fire, God went in with them to prove again that He provides when we decide. Your success in life depends upon your making the right decision at the proper time. That is why we must pray and know that we are in God's divine will. Knowing that God will take care of us, then we can venture out by faith.

On one occasion Pilate brought Christ out to the public and said, "What shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ?" The hungry, blood-thirsty, cursing mob of men, gave him this answer, "Away with Him; crucify Him."

(Continued on page 10)

Man and missions

From the Foreign Mission Executive Secretary's Desk, 1080 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tennessee—PAUL H. WALKER.

JAPAN TO HAVE HER FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

By Mrs. L. E. Hell

September is the time of Thanksgiving festivals in Japan. Everyone participates, even to the smallest children who don their costumes of gay colors and join in the parade. As a part of the celebration, a large group of men or boys hoist a large portable shrine onto their shoulders and the procession moves gradually, first in one direction, then in another seemingly with no certain goal in mind. The extent of the clothing worn on these occasions is a cloth tied around the forehead to catch the perspiration and a G-string tied about the waist. In this attire, with their faces painted white with paint, the picture is quite impressive. Other men carrying large fans follow the shrine endeavoring to keep them as cool as possible. (Japan is very hot at this time, especially during the day.) The fact is that these men are usually very drunk, and with the strain of the exertion, the group with the sacred burden moves recklessly from one side of the street to the other, thus necessitating the policemen to direct and often stop the automobiles that might happen to be trespassing in the area. Smaller shrines are provided for the very young boys, and they imitate in detail that which they observe from their elders. Countless women and children line both sides of the street to watch the festivities.

Empty Rituals and Empty Hearts

On this and many other such occasions, we see merely an empty heathenistic ritual which leaves the participants dissatisfied and with an empty heart. More important is the fact that we see a tremendous challenge to liberate the captives and dispel the darkness of such unprofitable idolatry. One of our missionary friends who just returned to the United States wrote back these words "I just didn't realize the difference until I returned home. I can pray so much easier here than I could in Japan." Upon arriving here, we were at first baffled by the high wall against which we were praying, but we know our God is powerful; He lives, and He will give us victory over these things. We really need your prayers, and we know you have been praying, because we can really feel the effects. We can see the progress which has been made since we have been here these two years, and we know that it is because of the prayers of the faithful ones in the homeland. We believe the foundation for the Church of God is being solidly laid. These people, not willing to be pushed, are the type to think things through completely before making a decision. During our recent tent meeting, twenty-four came forward, expressing either their faith in Jesus or a desire to learn more about Christianity. In a country where the people know little or nothing

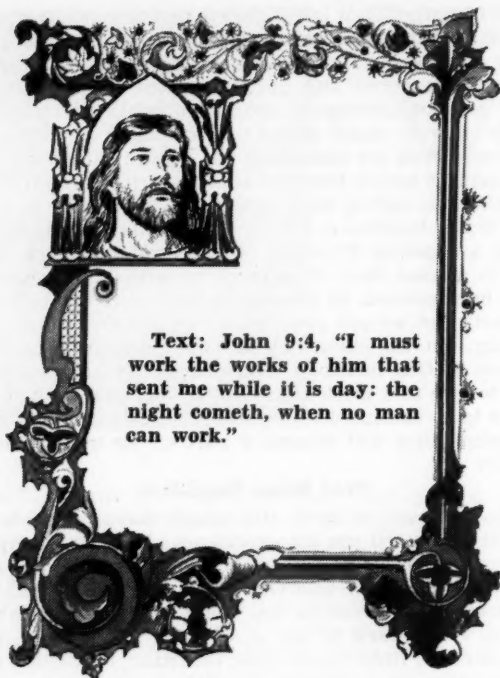
about Christianity, it is not always best to consider a person as having been born again, even though he may make a confession. Often, time has revealed to the eager missionary's regret and disappointment that the "convert" did not thoroughly understand what was involved in his decision. Some accept and are saved immediately, whereas others are instructed and prayed with for weeks and months before they can accept Christ's love and redemption as having been appropriated for them personally. Water baptism is considered a distinguishing mark. When a Japanese Christian requests water baptism, it is safe to assume that all connections with other religions have been severed. At present we have only two baptized converts, but we are planning to baptize five more next Sunday. On the same day we shall organize the first Church of God in Japan. Praise God! We are expecting Him to give us a glorious day filled with memories of His mercy to be cherished by our Japanese Christians on that day when they will become a part of our great Church of God.

Went Home Sanctified

I do not wish to make this article too lengthy, but I should like to tell you the experience of our first convert. A couple of weeks ago during a Wednesday night prayer meeting, I could see that Otani San was under a burden, because she remained on her knees after the service was closed. I remarked to my maid, who, incidentally, is a very devoted, Holy-Ghost-filled Christian, that Otani San seemed to want to continue to pray and that if she did I would be glad for her to come to our house. Otani San seemed happy that I had made this offer, and she readily accepted. My maid and I prayed with her until 11:30, and she received a definite experience of sanctification. Laughing and praising God, she kept saying, "I'm so happy." Finally, she decided to try to go home. Since she was rejoicing so and seemed to be a little drunk on the Spirit, my maid walked home with her. She continued praising God until she reached home. At one time a man stopped and looked at her, so Chimura San told her to be a little quieter because she was attracting attention. She replied, "I know he thinks I'm crazy, but I don't care. I'm so happy," and she continued to praise God. This girl is by nature very quiet; in fact, she usually sits with her head down during service, but she certainly forgot about her nature this time. It makes our hearts rejoice to see these dear babes in Christ going on with God in a deeper experience. She is now seeking the Holy Ghost; will you remember her in your prayers?

My Child to Be a Missionary

Before I close, I should like to say that Janice, who is now four years old, just started to Japanese kindergarten last week. She seems to enjoy trying to play with the children; however, it is a little hard for her, not knowing more than a few words of the language. I watched her the first day, and I could tell that she would have loved to talk back to the children, but since she didn't know what to say, she just smiled. We want her to learn the language and the ways of the people here so that she will become a good missionary in Japan some day. We are so thankful to God for our little boy. He has grown so fast that it doesn't seem that he is a baby. God has blessed all of us with good health, and we are happy in His service as your ambassadors to Japan. Your letters are always welcome, for they always seem to bring us a little closer to home.



Text: John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

JO KNOW ourselves, our church, and, especially, our great task, it is high time we awoke with a greater determination to do the task which is set before us. We have a far greater opportunity than has been afforded some gone before us; yet, there are many souls all around us who have not been saved. We must work in these last days, for night will soon come when no man can work.

An evangelist was trying to point out to a group of miners the care and bounty with which God had endowed the earth. "Look at your own occupation," he said. "Is it not wonderful how God looked out in the future and made the earth so that we could get fuel and power from it?"

One of the men replied at once, "That's quite right, sir, but I wish He had put it nearer the top of the ground." This is the spirit of many people today. They realize the goodness of God, no doubt, but wish He did not ask them to do so much. God gave the Israelites manna, but He did not throw it in their tents—they had to gather it. He sends us the harvest year by year, but we have to reap it. Ecclesiastes 9:10, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." Another scripture says "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest."

In 2 Thessalonians 3:10 Paul said, "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat." Surely this could be applied to spiritual things, as well as temporal things. What right has anyone to feast continually on spiritual things if there is no outcome in active service for the Lord, the Giver of all? We cannot all do the same work, but we can do something. If we cannot handle the trow-

KNOWING— Ourselves, Our Church, and Our Task

By E. A. BALLENGER
Pastor, Oneonta, Alabama

Before we can do our best, we must know what lieth in us, our place of labor, and that which must be done.

el, surely we can pray, "Lord bless the builder." If we cannot labor in the building and improvement, we can be laborers in prayer. It is needful today. It must be the foundation of our work if we are to succeed.

Nehemiah: "First begin to build with prayer and repentance to God." Nehemiah 1:6, "Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned." We must plan our work and work our plans for God. Nehemiah planned his work; he went to Jerusalem and stayed there three days. Then he began to encourage the people to begin the work to build the walls back which were torn down. I can imagine that these three days and nights he spent in meditation and prayer. He said in one place, "I arose in the night, there was no time for sleep." He had to be up and about the things God had put in his heart to do. He had a great work to do, just as we have if we do the things which God has commanded us to do.

PROVERBS 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Nehemiah saw that the walls were broken down and that the gates were consumed by fire. He had a vision to build them back. Many see no need of a greater work, because they are asleep. Many have become satisfied. When we become so satisfied that we fail to work for God, His Church, His people, there is danger of being too indifferent about God's work. There are many Christians in a lukewarm condition because they have failed to believe that things are as bad as they really are. Those

(Continued on page 11)



*All that is worthwhile
in life is found in*

Knowing Christ

By
Robert F.
Johnson

Talbott, Tennessee

Philippians 3:10, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made comformable unto his death."

THE APOSTLE PAUL tells us here how we may have a real experience with God. The words "That I may know him" were written by one of the greatest scholars of all time, by a man who understood every phase of the Roman law. Even in our time, Bible scholars agree that he was one of the wisest men that ever lived, with the exception, of course, of the One of whom Paul makes reference to in our text. No one ever really lives until he knows the Christ, who said of Himself, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you," John 6:53. Paul states here that life does not come through the intellectual realm or through cultural advancement, but life is actually knowing Christ. There is no greater honor that can be bestowed upon man than having a divine fellowship with the Son of God.

What a thought, what a thrill, that I may know him—He that stretched out the firmament like a silvery canopy across the skies, He that pinned back the drapes of darkness with sparkling clusters of stars, He that hurled into space the stars and the racing planets like feathers blown from a baby's fingers. Is there any wonder that Paul said, "It is joy unspeakable and full of glory" and "We are more than conquerors through him," who is coming again to stop once and for all the mouths of the foolish-hearted atheists and the blood-denying modernists? John the revelator declared that Christ will come, and will not tarry. Our hearts are made to wonder why the intellectual and the ecclesiastical world knows nothing of Him.

With this thought in mind, let us study John 1:10, "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." Why did they not know Him? Was it because they had never heard of Him? No! Every time a lamb was slain, it told the grand and glorious story of the coming Messiah. Yes, it is tragic, but, nevertheless, true. The magnificent cathedrals, with their soft-carpeted floors; the high priest, with his ecclesiastical attire; the Temple, with its most holy place, the ark

of the covenant, the shew bread, the altar, and the mercy seat, all with its traditional rituals, obscured the glory and the divine beauty of the Prince of Life. They were all without excuse. In the Pentateuch Moses testified of Him. Deuteronomy 18:15, "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken." The Book of the Law, which was read every Sabbath, portrayed His coming; yet, they knew Him not. There is no marvel today why that in a churchgoing country as we are so many people know very little about the blessed, divine, crucified, resurrected, and glorified Lamb of God.

MOST CHRISTIANS ARE far behind their testimonies. They testify that they know Christ, and as long as they are in the house of God and the spiritual tide is high, they feel just as zealous as Peter when he said, "Lord, I will go with you all the way, even till death." But when the dark clouds gather and the sunshine of His smile is hidden by the darkness of fiery trials, they fall beneath the cross. If they really had known Christ in the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings and had conformed their lives unto His death, then, and only then, would their lives have been enriched and filled with His presence.

"That I may know him in the power of his resurrection." We observe Easter morning in commemoration of His resurrection; the ladies wear beautiful flowers on their Easter bonnets, but all these things are only a mockery unless we are partakers of the power that burst asunder the bars of death, the power that forced Satan, the arch fiend of all righteousness, to yield the keys of death, hell, and the grave into the hands of Him, who invaded the regions of the lost, leading captivity captive, and receiving gifts for men (Psalm 68:18). On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished"; in the resurrection, God said, "Amen." Without the power of His resurrection, the story of the cross is just another tragedy in a dark and godless world, the teachings of Christ are merely another code of ethics, and Christ is just another Philosopher as Buddha and Confucius, and He will only mock me when I come to cross the Great Divide when the drapes of life are drawn. Oh, but thank God, we can know, not in a dream, but in sweet reality!



THE PROMISE: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel," Isaiah 7:14.

THE CONCEPTION: "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary," Luke 1:26, 27.

VIRGIN BIRTH: "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn," Luke 2:7.

CONFIRMATION: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord," Luke 2:11.

The Incarnated Christ

THE CONCEPTUALIST HOLDS the theory that Christ did not exist before the virgin birth, but was only in the mind of God from the beginning, that Christ was not the incarnated Saviour, but was the only begotten Son. The teaching is adverse to the Scriptures and is Biblically unsound doctrine. The Scriptures infallibly teach the incarnated Christ and His personality existence with God the Father as a member of the triune Godhead—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. "For there are three (persons as to individuality) that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one," 1 John 5:7. The WORD was in the beginning with God, and in the last days the Father sent Him to be the Saviour of the world. "And the WORD was made FLESH, and dwelt among us," John 1:14. The WORD or Jesus did exist before His birth, and at the time of His conception and birth, He was made flesh. Jesus did not come into existence at His birth, for He was before all things, and God sent His Son. Romans 8:3. "God sent forth His Son, made of a woman,"

THE VIRGIN

An earnest treatise on one of the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures, elaborated by Mariolaters, for the Christian believers.

Galatians 4:4. Before birth, He was equal with God and was in the form of God. Phil. 2:6. At birth He took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. Philipians 2:7. He took upon HIMSELF—the form that was equal with God and in the form of God—is evidence that He did exist before His birth.

Paul, looking far beyond Calvary, saw Jesus as a moving Rock giving forth water of life to Israel. "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was christ." 1 Corinthians 10:4. This was a spiritual Rock which followed them; the rock that Moses smote with his rod was stone and did not move.

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, saw the invisible Christ, the Son of God, in the furnace of fire with the three Hebrews. There was a fourth Man who became visible to the king, but seemingly the others present did not see Him. "He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God," Daniel 3:25. The Son of God was seen by the king in the FORM of God as referred to in Philipians 2:6, "Who, being in the FORM of God." It is possible that God opened the eyes of the king as He did the servant of Elisha who saw the mountains covered with horses and chariots of fire. Some will say that many sons of God lived in the early times. Yes, but there was never but one Son of God who could suddenly appear behind locked doors and vanish as quickly; it was that Son the king saw as the fourth Man. It was the God they served that delivered the three, and it was His Son who was sent to do the job.

It is strange that men of old saw the Son of God and that men of today cannot accept the fact that He existed before His birth. Blessed are those that haven't seen and yet believe. Abraham saw the day of Christ and rejoiced; the Jews said, "Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?" John 8:57. Jesus answered them, "Before Abraham was, I am." While with the Father in heaven, He was in the form of God and was "made so much better than the angels," Hebrews 1:4. The angels were separate from the person of God, so was Jesus. He was the express image of God's person. Hebrews 1:3. Webster says the word "person" means an individual, one

VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS

One of the great fundamental Holy Scriptures. Denied by liberals and idolaters, the virgin birth remains a simple, yet sublime, faith of

of the three of the triune Godhead. I cannot here see Christ in the mind of God but as a separate Personality existing with God, His own Son. Jesus was a quickening Spirit, the Lord of heaven, before His incarnation. 1 Corinthians 15:45. When He was in the flesh, He said, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have," Luke 24:39. Christ in the flesh was both flesh and spirit; He was put to death in the flesh and quickened in the Spirit. While the fleshly form was in the grave, He, in the Spirit, went and preached to the spirits in prison.

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever," Hebrews 13:8. He is referred to also as Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. "He is before all things and by him all things consist," Colossians 1:17. In His prayer to the Father Jesus mentioned "... the glory which I had with thee before the world was," John 17:5. Also, He mentioned that the Father had loved Him before the foundation of the world. John 17:24. Jesus, with the Father from the beginning and in the last days, was incarnated or took part of flesh and blood, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he ALSO HIMSELF likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil," Hebrews 2:14. Jesus was manifested or born in the flesh of the Virgin Mary to destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8. It was Mary's Boy who died on Calvary, and God's boy preached to the spirits in prison. God was the Father of both.

The Virgin Mary

WE UNDERSTAND that a virgin is an unmarried woman, one who has preserved her chastity. Mary, according to the Scriptures, was a virgin; yet, espoused to a man, she was unmarried at the time the angel appeared to her. Mary, engaged to Joseph, a just man, and soon to become his wife, was visited by the angel Gabriel and was called the handmaiden of the Lord. "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women," Luke 1:28. Mary, like unto Rebekah, the virgin chosen of the Lord to be the wife of Isaac, the man of promise, that through him the Christ would come, was selected as a virgin to become the mother of the promised Christ. Rebekah was

considered the mother of the PROMISE, and Mary was considered the mother of the fulfillment of the PROMISE, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son." It is founded undeniably by the Scriptures that Mary continued to be a virgin until after the birth of Jesus. When the angel of the Lord appeared to her, she said, "How shall this be, seeing that I know not a man?" Luke 1:34. She was a virgin who knew not man until after the birth of Jesus. "And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus," Matthew 1:25.

For three months after the angel appeared to her, Mary was with her cousin Elisabeth in the house of Zacharias. Luke 1:39-56. After that time, Mary returned to her own house, and even at the time Joseph and Mary went to the city of David, she was his espoused wife. Luke 2:5. Elisabeth was joyful in announcing that the Child of the Holy Ghost was the Christ. "And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me," Luke 1:43. Although Joseph was about to put Mary away, he retained confidence in her chastity but feared to take her to be his wife. In those days when man and wife came together and she was found to have known other men, she was put away for fornication. The angel of the Lord announced to Joseph that Mary was not a fornicator but that which was to be born of her was of the Holy Ghost, the Saviour of mankind. "Joseph her husband (espoused husband), being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus," Matthew 1:19, 20, 24, 25.

The Conception

WITH MAN THIS WAS impossible, but with God all things are possible. In the virgin birth of God's Son was the possibility of God and His plan to send His Son to mankind as their Saviour. "For with God nothing shall be impossible," the angel informed Mary in Luke

1:37. With Nicodemus, the ruler and teacher of Israel, it was impossible for man to be born again. "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" John 3:4. Without God and the Holy Ghost, it would be impossible for a sinner born in sin to be "born again" but God made it possible just as He made it possible for a virgin to be with child of the Holy Ghost. The virgin birth of Jesus and our spiritual birth are both of the Holy Ghost.

Nicodemus believed one thing, that Jesus was of God. If we believe one part of the Bible, we must believe all of it in order to confirm our faith in any part of it. Mary was with child of the Holy Ghost, and the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God, making Jesus the Son of God. "And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy," Acts 2:18. By the same Spirit that the handmaidens of the Lord prophesied, Mary, the handmaiden of the Lord, was with child. It is just as possible with God to let Mary be with a to-be-born baby as for you to be with a newborn feeling in your heart, a new creature or new creation in God, a babe in Christ.

The Holy Ghost has no earthly body, neither does God have an earthly body, but Jesus His Son did have an earthly body. Before His birth, Jesus was in heaven and was a quickening Spirit, the Lord of heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:45. In the birth of every man, in the earthly body, there is installed the Spirit of life from God. That part must return to God, and the body must return to earth. Ecclesiastes 12:7. From where did the body of Jesus come? God made it! "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a BODY HAST THOU PREPARED ME," Hebrews 10:5. In order for Jesus to bear the sins of men in His own body, it was necessary that His body be without sin—"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth," 1 Peter 2:22. "And in him is no sin," 1 John 3:5. His body was not sinful but was likened unto sinful flesh. Romans 8:3. He was not born of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible. It was just as possible for God to PREPARE a BODY for Jesus as it was for Him to PREPARE one for Adam; Adam was the son of God, so was Jesus the Son of God. Adam became corruptible and the whole world was enslaved in sin through his earthly body, even death passed upon all men. Romans 5:12, 19. Through the incorruptible body of Jesus, men are made free from the sin of Adam. Corruptible cannot redeem the corruptible, but corruptible must put on incorruption. In the death of Adam, we all die, but through the birth of Jesus, we can all live. God's first son Adam was earthly, made from the ground. God's second Son Jesus was heavenly, made of a woman. Galatians 4:4.

In our earthly families we are to honor our fathers and mothers as given in the commandments of the Lord but spiritually we are to call no man father upon the earth; our Father is in heaven. Jesus used the same terms in His references to His Father. "Who is my mother, or my brethren? . . . whosoever shall do the will of God." We can be a mother, a brother, or a sister to Jesus but not a father. Only God is His Father. In the conception of Jesus, it was God manifested in the flesh to be seen of men. "He that has seen me," He said, "has seen the Father." Mary said, "How shall this be? seeing I know not a man" Luke 1:34. The power of the most High overshadowed her, and she was found with child of the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of God.

His Birth Confirmed

THE ANGEL of the Lord, perhaps, Gabriel, that appeared to Mary confirmed the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Luke 2:8-15. The Holy Ghost that appeared to Mary moved upon Simeon so that he should not see death until he saw the Christ Child. He was directed by the Holy Ghost into the Temple the same day that the Child was brought in. Luke 2:25, 26. The prophetess Anna was instructed also of the Lord, and she, too, confirmed Him to be the Son of God. Elisabeth said that Mary was with child and that He was the Lord to be born. Luke 1:43.

Suffering Reproach

Because of His virgin birth, Jesus suffered undue reproach, especially among his own people and those that knew His supposed father and mother. The Jews strongly ridiculed Him, called Him a child of fornication. "Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God," John 8:41. The Jews claimed God as their Father and Jesus, without a known father, turned the table on them and said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it," John 8:44. The angel that appeared to Joseph in a dream convinced him that Mary was a true virgin and not a vile person, and he took her to be his wife. Matthew 1:18-24. The spirit that denies the true birth of Jesus Christ and says that he is not the son of God, born of a woman, is the spirit of antichrist. 2 John 7.



BIRDS OF A FEATHER—EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 3)

possess them. If you are repeatedly seen with gossips, then you, too, will be considered a gossip. If you are the boon companion of critics, then you, too, will be thought a critic. If you find delight in the presence of vulgar persons, you must not feel affront when you yourself are classed as vulgar. If you link yourself with a vain and worldly group, you cannot escape being considered of the same sort. Whether good or bad, you must accept the fact that when people think of even you they remember that birds of a feather flock together.



GOD PROVIDES WHEN WE DECIDE

(Continued from page 4)

We cannot afford to let the world make our decisions for us. To follow in the footsteps of the world will mean eternal damnation in the end. We must stand up as men and decide for ourselves. Your choice today will mean success or failure tomorrow. I have watched men who worked hard and were faithful for years lose everything by making one wrong decision after they had seemingly reached a great place in life.

We are living in a time when everybody is going at a fast rate of speed, and he is prone to do things, as we often say, on the "spur of the moment," which many times proves to be fatal. The devil is doing his best to defeat the people of God. He has many devices and attractions which will get your attention if you are not care-

ful. We cannot do things just because someone else does them. We should always purpose in our own lives that we are going to do right regardless of what the other person does. Sometimes we might feel that we shall have to stand alone and be criticized by the world, but God will help us.

Life is a precious thing which can be lived only once. Let us make our decisions so that when we reach the end of the way we can look back over our lives without regret and leave a testimony to the world that the fact has been proved—GOD PROVIDES WHEN WE DECIDE!



KNOWING OURSELVES, OUR CHURCH, AND OUR TASK

(Continued from page 6)

who viewed the city and saw the walls crumbled knew the ruin of the city.

Those who view the Church only on Sunday morning can know little about God's love and Spirit on prayer meeting night and in Y.P.E. services. In many cases, faith is the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. The habit of going to hear it has been broken down, and the gates of praise have been burned within the fire of unholy criticism. Viewing the difficulties, we shall be wretched and heartbroken unless, like Nehemiah, we know that God has put the remedy within our own hearts. Nehemiah 2:17, "... Ye see the distress that we are in ... come, let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach."

ONE OF THE BEST WAYS to work for God is to set others to work. Notice that Nehemiah did not say, "Go and build," but "Come, let us build." The great work of restoring Jerusalem or building the wall or strengthening the Church to its pristine glory and power will never be accomplished so long as the leading member or preacher attempts to do all the building or work himself and seems satisfied if the others will but come

and sit or look on. It would take a very expert workman to do as much work in a week as twenty ordinary hands, besides as the lives of God's people are one, so is their work one unity of faith, and it should lead to unity of effort. As a ruined Jerusalem was a dishonor to every Jew, so a weak and powerless church is a dishonor to every member.

The way to roll away the reproach is to arise and build. But those displaced stones into their proper places, build with prayer, build with faith, and build with confidence, believing that God is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Build with work. James tells us that faith without works is dead. Many say they have faith, but where is their works? "Son, go work today in my vineyard." There are yet many souls lying about our own doors that are out of their proper settings, therefore, failing to fulfill the real purpose for which they exist.

Some say they have nothing to do, no work to be done. God's work is voluntary. The Lord Jesus does not press His yoke upon us, but He does say, "Take my yoke upon you." We must not wait until work is pressed upon us, but we are to take our places and stand and do our work with patience, remembering the One who loved us and died for us.

We must be in earnest about God's work. Earnestness is good, but it is only as wildfire in the service of the Lord if we are not prepared at home. Joshua said, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord." Those who have such a large part of self-respect that they cannot bend their necks for the yoke or turn their hands to the work of the Lord may give a collection or suggestion, but they will not stoop to personal service. Like many church members, they are frozen with respectability. But those whose hearts God has touched have also God-touched hands. They must press on with their work.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."



SMITH

On January 1, 1955, the death angel came and claimed as its victim Otis L. (Bordie) Smith, aged 30, who was a faithful member of the Enoree, South Carolina, Church of God. Surviving are his wife, the former Miss Eva Mae Hanvey; a daughter, Kathy; and a son, Gary. Also, his father, Rev. W. Frank Smith; his stepmother of Warrentonville, South Carolina; two brothers, Sgt. W. Frank, Jr., of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Sgt. Zeno Sharp Smith of California; three sisters, Mrs. Carl Ross of Ware Shoals, South Carolina; Miss Lois Smith of Laurens, South Carolina; and Mrs. Frank Bennett of Florence, South Carolina. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. James A. Cross, Assistant General Overseer, and Brother Smith's pastor,

Rev. J. W. Watkins. He was laid to rest in Rest Haven Cemetery near Woodruff, South Carolina. He had the privilege of giving the first \$100 on the nice new brick church which was built by his father three years ago at Enoree, South Carolina, where he was an enthusiastic worker in the church until his health failed. He shall be greatly missed by his many friends.—Mrs. J. A. Hanvey, his mother-in-law.

BROOKS

P. L. Brooks, of Lenoir City, Tennessee, departed this life on November 3, 1954, at the age of 80. He was a faithful member of the Church of God and was very active in church work until he became a shut-in about two years before his death. His entire talk and interest were the Church, even during the two years he could not attend church. The funeral was conducted by his pastor, W. M. Wood, at the Lenoir City Church of God. He left to mourn his death his faithful wife, Addie Hull Brooks; two sisters, Mary Hull, of Wilmore, Kentucky, and Rebecca Range, of Dayton, Ohio; and a host of nephews, nieces, and friends.—Mrs. Earl Brown, Clerk.

CALDWELL

On October 25, 1954, the death angel took our dear Brother Albert Caldwell home to his reward. He was sixty-five years old and was a member of the Bradley, Mississippi, Church of God. The church suffered a great loss at his going, but heaven had a great gain. He was loved by all who knew him, and truly there is a vacancy in the church, as well as in his home. He left a precious wife, Sister Flora Watkins Caldwell; a son, Brother Tharron Caldwell; a daughter, Mrs. Eurscle Scarbrough; and a host of relatives and friends. The funeral was conducted at the Bradley Church of God by his pastor, Brother E. B. Carter, also, Brother W. E. Roberts. The body was laid to rest awaiting the resurrection of the Lord at the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery.—Mrs. Stelle Carter.

SANDERS

Claude A. Sanders, born July 10, 1906, went to be with Jesus on October 15, 1954. He was a member of the Norris City, Illinois, Church of God, where he was a faithful member and Sunday School teacher.—E. W. Thomas, Pastor.

reports

FERNDALE, Mich.—On October 3, 1954, the hearts of all those present at the Church of God in Ferndale, Michigan, were made to rejoice. It was a mortgage-burning time. As we lifted our arms in gratitude and praise, showers of blessings came down. Our beautiful church, which was dedicated only two years ago last Easter, is now free of debt. This was made possible by the help of God, our faithful pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister R. F. Koshewitz, and the good people of Ferndale. Fruits of their wonderful cooperation and sacrifices are now evident. During Brother Koshewitz's ten years of pastorage here, we have cleared all our former indebtedness, built our new church, and bought and paid for our beautiful Baldwin electric organ. Many changes have also been made in the parsonage besides the new furniture that was bought and paid for. Besides all these natural things, we have had the best spiritual report and have broken every Sunday School record with 335 present last Easter. Much credit goes to our good Sunday School superintendent and his staff of workers.

We were happy to have our esteemed overseer and his wife, Brother and Sister Spain, and family with us on this occasion. The good songs they rendered and the filling words by Brother Spain were greatly enjoyed by all present. Also, we were privileged to have our State Sunday School and youth director, Brother D. S. Aultman, and his wife with us. Truly God is using them in a great way. We felt honored in having Brother R. P. Johnson, of Hialeah, Florida, with us in a revival on that day. His spiritual and timely messages stirred our souls, and some were saved, sanctified, and filled with the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Words cannot express all the good that was done in this revival. Some were healed, and the saints were greatly edified. Now that our church is free of debt, we are visualizing a new parsonage to be built in the near future. Truly we can say that God has been good to us as we see every department going forward. — Sara Danehower and Mrs. Joyce Brown, Reporters.

RUPERT, W. Va.—Our church has recently held a great singing school with J. Cooper Hight as the teacher. This has been one of the most helpful undertakings the church has ever enjoyed. Brother Hight was very sympathetic and instructive, and we can see a great improvement in our singing as a result of this class. The one thing that makes Brother Hight's schools such a success is his evangelistic spirit. He always stresses the need for salvation. As a result of this, we had the happy privilege of seeing nine precious souls pray through to salvation and three sanctified wholly. This makes 98 souls that have been

saved in the past four years in Brother Hight's singing schools, with 15 sanctified and 11 baptized with the Holy Ghost. We believe that this is a record of which any man should be proud—with a holy pride. It was a privilege to have him in our home, and it is a delight to recommend him to the Churches of God in any place. His address is Mr. J. Cooper Hight, 308 Elliott Street, Durham, North Carolina. This was the ninety-fourth school for Brother Hight in the past four years, and nine of them have been in Greenbrier County. He has several other calls in this county for the future.—F. D. Cross, Pastor.

AUBURNDALE, Fla.—We were honored to have Brother O'Neil McCullough and family with us for one mission service on Sunday morning, January 16. The Lord did bless as Brother McCullough told of his work in the mission field and some of his experiences in the dear Lord's work. Our souls were blessed as he told us how God in His great love and mercy de-

livered him many times when it looked as if there was no way out. Only Jesus could have taken him through. We had a wonderful service on Sunday night also. One received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and we do praise the Lord for all He is doing for us. We are expecting a great revival in the near future, and we desire your prayers. The Lord has also done many healings here. One young girl was healed of a growth on the side of her face. Praise the Lord!—Mrs. Lawson Culpepper, Reporter.

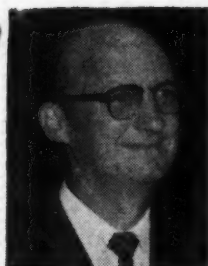
BLACKSHEAR, Ga.—We are glad to report great success in every department of the church. When we came here a little more than a year ago, we found a band of the best people with whom we have ever worked. The Sunday School was running around 65 and 70 in attendance, but during the International Sunday School Contest, we had an average attendance of 230. The Sunday School and Y.P.E. have doubled in every way, and we have a really good L.W.W.B. We have had two very successful revivals which have caused a wonderful increase in church membership.—J. W. Moore, Pastor.



Above is the picture of the Anderson (McDuffie Street) parsonage. The congregation purchased also the old Stark Sullivan Home at 1302 S. McDuffie Street for their pastor and

family to reside while the church was being constructed. The parsonage contains ten rooms and three baths and is situated on an acre lot. This home was purchased for \$26,000.

+ Anderson, S. C., Builds New Church +



ANDERSON, S. C.—The Anderson Church, under the able leadership of their energetic pastor, John Smith, erected this beautiful edifice, which is valued at \$200,000. The lot cost \$27,500.

The building is of brick construction, 130 feet deep by 56½ feet wide, with two wings, each 36 x 40 feet on either side. There are more than 22,000 square feet of space in the church, including a full basement with twenty Sunday School rooms and a boiler room, and on the main floor there are seven more Sunday School rooms, a pastor's study, and rest rooms.

The auditorium, with lime grain

oak pews, seats 900. It has twenty stained glass windows, and a new Steinway piano and a Hammond organ are in the choir loft.

By April of 1953, the lot had been cleared and excavated, and the pastor had laid the first brick on its concrete foundations. With the pastor serving as foreman, brick mason, carpenter, and fund-raiser, the church rose as the building fund allowed. The members of the church donated their skills and labors to help, and when the job couldn't be done by the membership, subcontractors were called.

November 21, the day of the opening and dedicatory services, was a

great day for the Anderson Church. The first message of the morning was delivered by the pastor, the second by the state overseer, H. B. Ramsey, and the dedicatory message was delivered by James A. Cross, Assistant General Overseer. Following the afternoon service, at the conclusion of a short service conducted by the state overseer, the cornerstone was placed in position by the pastor.

Much credit is due Brother Smith and the fine congregation at Anderson for erecting this building, which is one of the most beautiful in our entire movement.—H. B. Ramsey, State Overseer of South Carolina.

PINEY GROVE, Ga.—I have just conducted a revival at the Piney Grove Church of God, where Brother M. B. Norris is pastor. I should like to congratulate this great man of God for the work he is doing at this church. He moved into his four-bedroom par-

sonage on December 12. This wonderful servant of God, with the help of the businessmen in the surrounding towns and his congregation, has built a twelve-thousand-dollar modern parsonage and will owe very little when it is completed. This brick veneer, all-

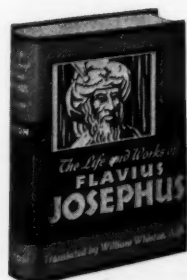
modern house has hardwood floors, four bedrooms, a beautiful living room, guest dining room, finger-tip kitchen, and family dining room. We thank God for the great work that Brother Norris is doing.—J. E. Smeltzer, Reporter.

THE COMPLETE
WORKS OF

FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS

Translated by William Whiston

These famous writings by the learned Jewish historian and celebrated warrior were concluded in the thirteenth year of the reign of the famous Roman emperor, Domitian. Josephus' writings are among the most esteemed monuments of ancient learning, and are characterized by a broad viewpoint, liberal culture, and tolerant judgment. This edition is the standard English translation and includes the history and antiquity of the Jews; seven dissertations concerning Jesus Christ, John the Baptist, and others; life of Josephus; analytical index, etc. Even to Christians today, a most interesting passage in his writing is that containing his description of Jesus. Durably bound, stamped in gold. Size is 7½x9 inches. \$5.95



+ Latest Releases in Sheet Music +

50 Cents Per Copy

All of This and Heaven, Too, Grogan
Anything, Triplet
At the End of the Trail, Ellis
Crying in the Chapel, Glenn
Dear Lord, Remember Me, Jackson
Each Step of the Way, Harper
Glory Be to the Son of God, Ellis
Heaven's Hall of Fame, Grogan
Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All, Jones
He's Never Been Away, Rivers
His Hand in Mine, Lister
How About Your Heart? Triplet
I Bow'd on My Knees and Cried Holy, Packer
I Have a Desire, Abner
I Have But One Goal, Carrier
I Just Can't Make It By Myself, Ward
I Need No Mansion Here Below, Grogan
I Never Walk Alone, Grogan
I'd Rather Have Jesus, Shea & Miller
I'm Feeling Fine, Lister
In God We Trust, Ellis

In My Father's House Are Many Mansions,
Hanks
Is He Satisfied? Hamblen
It Took a Miracle, Hamblen
Jesus Signed My Pardon, Grogan
Known Only to Him, Hamblen
My God's Unsearchable Love, Ellis
My Part, Triplet
Nothing Can Compare, Lister
No Secret, Yet Never Fully Told, Fowler
Somebody Bigger Than You and I, Lange
Someone to Care, Davis
Tenderly He Watches, Wiseman
The Hem of His Garment and
Open the Door That Leads to Your Heart,
Triplet (2 songs)
The Keys to the Kingdom, Carson
The Message of the Cross, Grogan
The Story of Ilme, Ellis
There Is Only One (Who is Jesus), Jett

Send orders to

Tennessee Music & Printing Company

Montgomery Avenue
CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE

Sermons By . . .

CLARENCE E. MACARTNEY

Dr. Macartney's new book is

THE GREATEST QUESTIONS OF THE BIBLE AND OF LIFE

Eighteen vivid sermons picture Bible situations which demanded positive decisions. From each the lesson for today is clearly drawn. \$2.00

Bible Epitaphs—In seventeen sermons Dr. Macartney describes Bible characters, noble and ignoble, showing how righteousness made some imperishable in human history and how sin carried others to dishonorable graves. \$2.00

Great Interviews With Jesus—Fifteen distinguished sermons on talks Jesus had with people of various classes: A thief, Pontius Pilate, a woman of ill repute, Peter, etc. \$2.00

Great Nights of the Bible—Fifteen sermons on great events of Bible times which took place at night. They give the reader a new hope in a war-weary world and lead them to new spiritual understanding. \$2.00

Great Women of the Bible—Eleven biographical sermons on women of the Bible, noble and ignoble. With each in her proper setting the lesson for today is clearly drawn. \$2.00

The Greatest Men of the Bible—Fifteen biographical sermons on Bible characters, each typifying some quality, such as faith, righteousness, temptation, repentance, etc. \$2.00

The Greatest Texts of the Bible—Eighteen inspiring sermons built upon the great truths of revelation and redemption. They affirm and clarify the basic principles of Christianity and reveal the faith the texts inspired. \$2.00

The Greatest Words in the Bible and in Human Speech—These fifteen sermons are concerned with the truth a given word represents. They are developed through portrayal of incidents in the lives of men and women of the Bible. \$2.00

Peter and His Lord—Twenty-one sermons on the many-sided Peter, rich in interesting illustrations and lessons for the Christian life today. \$2.00

Preaching Without Notes—A thorough discussion of preaching to convert people to the will of God through Christ. Contains many useful aids to make sermons effective. \$1.75

Sermons on Old Testament Heroes—Eighteen vivid sermons which make great Biblical personalities live and speak helpfully to us for the needs of today. \$2.00

Trials of Great Men of the Bible—Fifteen heart-searching sermons based on important trials depicted in the Bible, with lessons that apply to everyday living. \$2.00

And the Prophets—In eighteen biographical sermons on Old Testament prophets, Dr. Chappell tells the kind of man each was, his mission and accomplishments, and applies his teachings to life today. \$2.00

Order from:

Church of God Publishing House
Montgomery Ave.,
Cleveland, Tenn.



religious news



CLEVELAND, Tenn. (MNS)—Rev. Paul H. Walker, Executive Secretary of Church of God Foreign Missions, with the Assistant General Overseer, Rev. Houston R. Morehead, and the Editor-in-Chief, Rev. Charles W. Conn, are planning a trip to Europe in May 1955. They will visit the Church of God work in the American and French Zones, Stuttgart, Germany, before attending the convention of the World Pentecostal Fellowship in Stockholm, Sweden. On his return trip, Mr. Walker will visit Spain, Portugal, and the Union of South Africa.

CHICAGO, Ill., (MNS)—Among Youth for Christ International's new approaches to youth evangelism in 1955 is a teen-age missionary candidates club. This club will be for young people in high school and college who have dedicated their lives to full-time Christian service and plan to prepare for this service. It is anticipated that the club will have its own news letter, giving inspiration and information to members, and will strengthen the commitments which so many young people have made for foreign missionary service.

COSTA RICA (MNS)—In a country which is officially Roman Catholic and has been dedicated to the "Sacred Heart of Jesus," it is significant to note that an evangelical schoolteacher was voted "primary teacher of the year" for 1954.

Juan Davila Aburto, a member of the Latin America Mission Church in Liberia, Province of Guanacaste, Costa Rica, received a gold medal from the provincial directors of primary education.

Davila testifies that before his conversion he was a heavy drinker, but the Lord changed him so completely that he has now received this great honor from his fellow citizens.

VENEZUELA (MNS)—All Protestant churches in the State of Portuguesa, Venezuela, have been ordered closed by the authority of the governor of the State.

The State of Portuguesa is called "the Holy State," due to the fact that in the past, the Virgin of Coromoto appeared to an Indian, and she became the patron saint of Venezuela. During the last year, a new Roman Catholic bishop was appointed to the Holy State. Certain priests have ex-

pressed the avowed determination that the State of Portuguesa should remain a "holy state" and should not be defiled by any Protestant churches.

The closing of the churches was done on the authority of the law that was passed in 1824. This law, in the beginning, was made to curb Catholicism, and states that there is not complete religious liberty in Venezuela. There is religious liberty under the supreme inspection of the authority of the governor, and no church may function without a permit from the governor. This law was made applicable to the Protestants on October 24, 1911, and is now the law that is being used to close the churches.

Petitions have been made to the governor of the State of Portuguesa for his permission to open and conduct services. The priest in one village, where there is a Protestant church just recently dedicated and now closed, wished to buy the building and stated to his friends that he had closed the church through his influence with the governor.

Those churches in which there are foreign missionaries connected have obeyed the governor's orders and are now closed. One church with a national pastor has refused to close its doors. As of December 28, no action had been taken against it.

LOS ANGELES—With prominent local political leaders taking part, members of the Southwest Regional of N.A.E. devoted their December luncheon session in First Church of the Nazarene to a stimulating panel discussion on "Christianity and the Political Drift." The panel was moderated by Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, Pasadena theologian and chairman of N.A.E.'s national social action commission.

Participating in the effort, which many in attendance observed might well furnish a pattern of concern with social issues by other regionals, were Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, President John Gibson of the Los Angeles City Council, City Attorney Roger Arnebergh, and Councilman Gordon Hahn. They are among the southland's evangelically minded office holders. In attendance was N.A.E.'s national representative, the Reverend George L. Ford, who reported on the organization's broader advances.

The panel made a vigorous start with the moderator's blunt initial inquiry whether a Christian could af-

ford to dabble in politics, since its reputation is that of a shoddy and shabby business. The participants suggested that the political arena is shabby and haphazard in considerable measure just because godly citizens are so often indifferent to political issues, and they stressed that, especially in the national and international situation today, the Christian cannot afford to divorce himself from the political picture.

Guided by the moderator, participants voiced their conviction in response to such questions as: What do we gain if our politicians are evangelicals? Is an evangelical Christian necessarily a better politician? Is the evangelical conscience committed in advance against voting for a competent candidate whose religious convictions are Jewish or Roman Catholic or Unitarian? What examples can be given of the practical difference it makes on such issues as corruption in office, the liquor traffic, the smog controversy when one is an evangelical officeholder? What guidelines does Christianity furnish us for the national and the local political drift? Has national foreign policy in recent decades been negotiated from the standpoint of spiritual strength or of spiritual apostasy? What moral leadership do evangelical politicians take in the social crisis? How does a Christian view of politics differ from any other view?

In closing the panel, the officeholders fell somewhat into disagreement on the question of the role of the Church in politics. The question put to them by the moderator was: "If you, as a Christian politician, stood where I, as a Christian minister stand, would you . . . tell the church members how to vote? give definite instruction in the sphere of political issues?" All agreed that the primary task of the Church is the proclamation of the gospel and that if it is preoccupied with political affairs, its misjudgment in that arena soon encourages people to suspect it of misjudgment in spiritual matters, also. But some of the participants held that some political affairs; for example, legalized gambling or legalized prostitution, are morally so clear-cut that they can be discussed with liberty from the pulpit. The general tone, however, was a recognition that the Church as a church ought not to enter the political arena but that Christian men of conviction must be counted to mirror and voice their convictions as men of two worlds.

BOOKS... By

Church of God MINISTERS and LAITY

Advice to Ministers, by John C. Jernigan	\$1.00
Backslider, The, by L. C. Heaston	1.00
The Baptism With the Holy Ghost and the Evidence, by Paul H. Walker .....	.15
Bible Christianity, by L. C. Heaston .....	.30
Child Training and Social Evangelism, by Alda B. Harrison .....	.20
Chin Lifters for Ministers and Laymen, by Jonathan D. Bright	1.00
Clark's Practical Handbook, by E. C. Clark	1.25
Divinely Guarded and Other Sermons, by Joseph L. Milligan, \$2.00 limp	1.25
Ever-Ready All-Occasion Sermon Outlines, by E. C. Clark	1.00
The Eye Opener, by Cecil M. Truesdell	1.00
Execution of Six Men, by Earl P. Paulk, Sr. ....	.50
50 Sermons in Outline From the Scriptures, by Paul H. Walker	2.00
God Still Does the Impossible, by William F. Sullivan	1.00
The Light of Truth, by L. C. Heaston .....	.40
The Lord's Supper and Feet Washing, by Paul H. Walker .....	.15
The Manifestation of the Godhead, by Paul H. Walker .....	.25
Marvelous Healings God Wrought Among Us, by E. C. Clark .....	.50
Material for Ministers, by G. W. Lane	1.25
The Minister's Guide for Special Occasions, by Zeno C. Tharp	2.00
Miracles in My Life, by Thea F. Jones .....	.60
One Minute, Please, by Manuel F. Campbell .....	.35
111 Poems, by Vera Baldree	1.00
Paul's Apology—Forgive Me This Wrong, by Ray Morgan .....	.15
Preachers' Gold Mine, 3 Vols., by John C. Jernigan	3.00
Program and Purpose—What We Do and Why We Do It, by G. W. Lane .....	.35
Questions and Answers on Eternal Security, by C. B. Donahue .....	.35
Sermon Outlines With Helps, by John C. Jernigan	set 3.00
Some Startling Facts, by E. L. Moore .....	.25
This Is That, by L. C. Heaston .....	.40
To the Uttermost, by Lindsey F. Pratt .....	.50
Tobacco, by L. C. Heaston .....	.10
Youth at the Crossroads, by Alda B. Harrison	2.00

Church of God Publishing House

922 MONTGOMERY AVENUE, CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE